

**Question for written answer E-003069/2024  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)**

**Subject:** Export credit agencies / development finance institutions and their role in lithium mining projects in Argentina

The Commission recently initiated the enhanced coordination of export credit and development finance, covering projects including a lithium mining project in Argentina<sup>1</sup>.

It is known that lithium extraction in regions such as salt flats requires significant amounts of water, which can impact local water resources, agriculture and ecosystems. Additionally, there have been concerns from Argentinian civil society about the socio-economic implications of such mining activities, particularly regarding local community involvement, the distribution of wealth and the rights of indigenous people. Moreover, there are concerns about the adequacy of due diligence and transparency measures within export credit agencies<sup>2</sup>.

This raises the following questions:

1. To what extent are these projects aligned with EU development objectives, including reducing poverty, addressing inequality and promoting human rights?
2. Can the Commission clarify which development banks, export credit agencies and EU companies have shown interest in this project, and whether any agreements have been signed for the allocation of EU funds?
3. Additionally, will the Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships plan to carry out an independent study, including consultations with civil society, to assess the potential risks associated with export credit and development finance for critical raw materials projects before such projects receive EU public funds?

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-003355-ASW\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2023-003355-ASW_EN.html).

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.bothends.org/uploaded\\_files/document/The\\_foreign\\_financiers\\_of\\_Argentina\\_s\\_lithium\\_rush.pdf](https://www.bothends.org/uploaded_files/document/The_foreign_financiers_of_Argentina_s_lithium_rush.pdf).